

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 11485 141600Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11485

EXDIS-USOECD

E.O. 11652: GDD
TAGS: ENRG, IEA, IT
SUBJECT: JUNE 27-28 INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY GOVERNING
BAORD (IEA/GB) MEETING

REF: STATE 156127

1. ON JULY 12 ECOMIN DISCUSSED ITALIAN RESERVATION ON
REDUCED DEPENDENCE DRAFT DECISION WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY
ENERGY COORDINATOR MIGLIUOLO. MIGLIUOLO'S DESCRIPTION OF
ITALY'S RATIONALE FOR RESERVATION WAS FAR CLEARER THAN
ITALIAN STATMENT AT GB (PARA 2 REFTEL). IN FACT, MIGLIUOLO
WAS VISIBLY UNHAPPY WITH ITALIAN DEL'S HANDLING OF ISSUE
AT GB AND WITH IMPRECISON OF ITS STATMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO MIGLIUOLO, GOI IS TOTALLY COMMITTED TO
EFFORTS/TO REDUCE DEPENDENCE ON IMPORTED OIL BECAUSE
OF ITALY'S VULNERABILITY. HOWEVER, IT BELIEVES THAT DECISION BY
CONSUMING COUNTRIES SETTING OBJECTIVES ON REDUCED DEPENDENCE,
SUCH AS THAT PROPOSED AT GB MEETING, MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY
MEANINGFUL MEASURES TO ACHIEVE THAT OBJECTIVE. IF IEA WERE TO
AGREE TO OBJECTIVE OF 26 MBD BY 1985, IT WOULD LOSE ITS
CREDIBILITY UNLESS MEANS WERE DECIDED UPON TO
ACHIEVE GOAL.

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3. IN ITALY'S CASE, REDUCED DEPENDENCY CAN BE
REACHED ONLY BY SHIFT TO NUCLEAR
ENERGY. HOWEVER, ITALY HAS NOT RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT
BENEFITS FROM IEA TOWARD THAT END. ITALY HAS HOPED,
AND CONTINUES TO HOPE, THAT IEA WOULD BECOME
VEHICLE FOR PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO ITALY IN URANIUM

SUPPLIES AND FINANCING. THUS FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO SUCH DEVELOPMENT. INDEED, MIGLIUOLO ASSERTED THAT ITALY HAS TO SOME EXTENT BEEN SHUNTED BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN IEA AND US/ITALY BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP WITH LITTLE VISIBL E SUCCESS IN PROMOTING ITS NUCLEAR ENERGY GOALS.

4. MIGLIUOLO INDICATED THAT IF REDUCED DEPENDENCE OBJECTIVE CAN BE COUPLED WITH MEANINGFUL ACTION TO ACHIEVE IT, ITALY WOULD BE PREPARED TO REMOVE ITS RESERVE. SINCE MIGLIUOLO EXPECTS TO BE IN WASHINGTON DURING LATTER PART OF NEXT WEEK AND BEGINNING OF WEEK OF JULY 25 IN CONNECTION WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI'S VISIT, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT SEEK HIM OUT FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT.

GARDNER

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